1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

dictable rainfall in the winter, which in turn annually 132
threatens the inhabitants with the possibility of drought. Along the coast of Kwangtung, typhoons from time to time descend upon that area with all their tropical fury. They come on the average of 8.5 times a year, usually in May, but no part of the year is completely free from the threat.[17]

III. SOIL AND VEGETATION

Northern Honan Province lies on the fringe of the 134
North China plain, which is covered with a layer of alluvial soil. In colors ranging from light yellow to dark brown, the soil varies from saline to calcareous. South of Kaifeng in Honnan Province the land lies under sandy loam which is most non-calcareous. Farther south in Hupeh Province there are belts of non-calcareous alluvial soil, brown clay, and dark grey soil with varying acid content. Hunan, Kwangsi, and Kwangtung provinces are extensively covered with red and dark red soil of various ages. In these provinces, spotty patches of light and dark grey soil are also found. In the Pearl and Hsi river valleys the soil is mainly alluvial and non-calcareous. The same soil is found along the shores of Hainan Island. In the middle of Hainan Island, red soil predominates, with dark grey soil at higher elevations.

Coniferous forests are common in central and south 137
ern Honan. Tropical forests occupy most of the low hills and river valleys. In Hunan and Hupeh provinces, coniferous and evergreen plants grow on higher mountains. Kwangtung has a rich variety of tropical and semi-tropical plants, and throughout the province fruits are extensively cultivated in addition to the crop of rice. Tropical plants such as sugar-cane and cinnamon are found also in southern Kwangsi and

17. Cressey, op. cit., p. 100.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Hainan Island. Hardwood and maple forests are found at different places on the mountains of northern Kwangsi. 137

IV. IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION LINES AND CENTERS [18]

The Peking-Hankow, Hankow-Canton and Canton-Kowloon railways, together, run the entire length of the Central-South Region and constitute the main north-to-south transportation trunkline. The main communication lines traversing this region from East to West are the Yellow River, the Lunghai Railway, and the Yangtze River. There is also a railway cutting diagonally through Kiangsi, Hunan, and Kwangsi provinces. 361 489

The Peking-Hankow Railway enters this region at a point a short distance north of Anyang in Honan Province. The industries in Anyang prosper because of the nearby Liu-ho-kou Coal Mine. South of Anyang, the railway passes through another large city, Hsinhsiang, which is expanding along with the Chiao-tso industrial and mining center to the west. There is a spur line between Hsin-hsiang and Chiao-tso. Hsinhsiang marks the beginning of a large irrigation and flood-diversion ditch, which runs parallel to the railway to reach the Yellow River. After crossing the river by way of a steel bridge, the railway reaches Chengchow. The Chengchow bridge, 3,010 meters

18. Ch'eng Kuang-yü, Chung-kuo Tu-shih [The Cities of China], Taipei, Chung-hua wen-hua ch'u-pan shih-yeh weu-yüan hui, 1953; Jen-min Shou-tse; [People's Handbook], Tientsin, Ta-kung pao, 1955; Ya-chou Tien-hsün [Asia Foundation Bulletin], San Francisco, July 6, 1955; New China News Agency Dispatch from Peking, March 1, 1955, quoted in Survey of China Mainland Press, No. 998, Hong Kong, U.S Consulate General, p. 28.